

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SY-04 OPR-01 USSS-00 IO-10 SCCT-01 /071 W

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R 310835Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7711

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: NDP ACTIVITIES

REF: SEOUL 8615

1. NDP CAUCUSED DEC 30 AND ISSUED STATEMENT CONDEMNING POLICE FOR INTENTIONALLY FAILING TO PREVENT DISABLED VETERANS FROM DEC 27 SEIGE OF KIM YONG-SAM'S TAEGU HOTEL (REFTEL) AND FROM BREAKING INTO LOCAL PARTY HEADQUARTERS THE NEXT DAY. THE VETERANS' ACTIONS PREVENTED NDP FROM OPENING TAEGU CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MOVEMENT OFFICE AS SCHEDULED, ALTHOUGH KIM YONG-SAM DID LEAD ASSEMBLYMEN AND OTHER NDP MEMBERS IN STREET MARCH DEC 28. MARCHERS REPORTEDLY DEMANDED RELEASE OF DETAINED PERSONS AND CONDEMNED ROKG POLITICAL USE OF DISABLED VETERANS.

2. NDP HAS DEMANDED THAT ASSEMBLY HOME AFFAIRS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATE TAEGU INCIDENT OF "POLITICAL TERROR" AND CALLED FOR RESIGNATION AND ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY BY HOME MINISTER PAK KYONG-WON. GOVT PARTIES HAVE REJECTED OPPOSITION DEMANDS.

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3. THE OPPOSITION JOINED MOVEMENT TO AID TONGA ILBO (SEPTTEL) BY TAKING LARGE STRONGLY WORDED AD IN DEC 31-JAN 1 TONGA NEW YEARS SPECIAL EDITION. NDP AD CONDEMNS GOVERNMENT FOR TRYING TO STIFLE TONGA AND CALLS ON PEOPLE TO ASSIST THE NEWSPAPER. NDP AD ALSO ARGUES THAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ONLY MEANS TO OVERCOME CRISIS IN ROK, DEMANDS GOVERNMENT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAWLESS ACTS IN TAEGU, CALLS FOR END TO REPRESSIVE RULE, AND ASKS PRESIDENT PARK TO AMEND CONSTITUTION AND STEP DOWN.

4. NDP SOURCES HAVE INDICATED TO US THEIR SATISFACTION AT EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF TAEGU INCIDENT; DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER OM YONG-TAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE FELT PUBLIC SYMPATHY WAS AGAINST GOVERNMENT AND THAT ROKG HAD MISCALCULATED BY USING VETERANS AGAINST NDP.

5. OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMAN INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT PARTY IS CONSIDERING STREET MARCH IN SEOUL FOR EARLY JANUARY, AND PRESS QUOTES PARTY SPOKESMAN YI TAEK-TON AS SAYING NDP WILL RESUME PROVINCIAL CAMPAIGN IN MID JANUARY. KIM YONG-SAM HAS TOLD US THAT HE WILL GO ABROAD TO SPEAK AT TOKYO FOREIGN PRESS CLUB JANUARY 20 AND AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY JANUARY 30.

6. COMMENT: KIM MAY DECIDE TO STAGE SEOUL DEMONSTRATION PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE IN ORDER TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM OF CAMPAIGN IN ROK AND FOR BENEFIT US AND JAPANESE PUBLIC. SNEIDER

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